



— SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES —

Activity

"Happiness is a state of activity"—Aristotle

— 2012 YOUTH CALENDAR —



I HAVE A NEW FAMILY

BY: DEBRA LYNN GARCIA, 2003

I have a new family...

A brother that is always there.

A mother and father who always care.

Brothers and sisters who surround me, and always want me near.

I have a new family...

who accept me no matter who I am,

who love me unconditionally and help me when I fail.

A mother and father who supply my needs.

They keep me safe through the storms,

and anchor me through tough times.

I have a new family...

who love me and keep me safe.





This poem was written by a birth mother to her children about their new family. She focused on their love and need for each other as siblings and the importance for them to stay together in their new family. This mother gave her children the gift of grace and security in knowing that they would be loved and cared for in another family. Unconditional love and safety. . . the foundation all children need to thrive, to grow and mature into the healthy adults they will become.

We strive to keep siblings together, to place children in the homes of relatives or extended family members whenever possible. When we cannot, it is our network of foster and adoptive homes we turn to for placement. We look to families who have opened their hearts and their homes to nurture, love and advocate for children until their families are able to do so. Foster families have the willingness and spirit to learn to support and embrace a child's family. They are valued and respected as expert partners in child welfare services. Does this sound like this could be you?

We welcome you to use and enjoy this calendar. Please think about how you may be able to contribute to the unconditional love and safety for a child to help us build their foundation.

Thank you,

TRACY BUCKINGHAM, *Assistant Social Services Director*





NEVEAH | 7 YEARS

Neveah is energetic, friendly and active. Highly intelligent, she enjoys learning new skills and is very inquisitive. She takes pleasure in playing outdoors, whether she's on the monkey bars or kicking a soccer ball. Recently, she enjoyed her first karate lesson and would love to continue with lessons in the future.

HOW TO HELP

Could you provide Neveah with ongoing lessons or even a new karate gi?

THANKS TO

Koei-Kan Karate-Do
Photographer Melissa Jean

JANUARY 2012



NOTES _____

NATIONAL SELF DEFENSE MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>New Year's Day</i>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</i>					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

THE LINK

We are a child and youth development organization. Through our Family Advocates, Family Resource Centers and Teens at Work program, we link families to community resources and provide development opportunities for youth and their parents.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(805) 466-5404
6500 Morro Road Suite A
Atascadero, CA 93422
www.linkslo.org

SLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
www.slocounty.ca.gov/dss | 805-781-1705



ELI | 18 YEARS
NISSEE | 14 YEARS

Eli and Nissee enjoy spending time with each other, joking around with friends and listening to music. These witty siblings are both compassionate and caring individuals. Eli is looking forward to owning his own car and hopes to have a career in management. Nissee is looking forward to her first job.

HOW TO HELP

Eli and Nissee are responsible people interested in gaining skills and work experience. They dream of climbing the ladder of success. Do you have any resources that could help Eli and Nissee reach their career goals?

THANKS TO

Chef Ryan Swarthout
Robert's Restaurant in Paso Robles
Photographer Kate Swarthout

FEBRUARY 2012



NOTES _____

BAKE FOR FAMILY FUN MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>Abraham Lincoln's Birthday</i>		<i>Valentines Day</i>				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	<i>Presidents Day</i>					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			<i>Leap Day</i>			
26	27	28	29			

SERVICES AFFIRMING FAMILY EMPOWERMENT (S.A.F.E.)

S.A.F.E. Family Resource Centers are a community based, school-linked, family-centered way of delivering services to families living in southern San Luis Obispo County. Our goals are to focus on family strengths and coordinate community resources to keep children safe, healthy, at home, in school and out of trouble.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(805) 474-2032
Laurie Morgan
1086 Grand Ave., AG, CA 93420
lmorgan@co.slo.ca.us



SHIYANN | 16 YEARS

Shiyann's great sense of humor, kind heart and energetic personality make it easy to smile when around her. She has an outgoing nature and an eagerness to learn that has served her well as a budding musician. Shiyann taught herself how to play the guitar, bass, flute, and now the violin using online videos.

HOW TO HELP

Shiyann is a highly motivated self-taught musician, but she needs a mentor to help her "fine tune" her violin skills. Would you or someone you know be interested in being a mentor, teacher, or sponsor?

THANKS TO

Vanessa Plakias
The Clark Center Association
Photographer Tom Meinhold

MARCH 2012



CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

NOTES _____

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>						<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	<i>First Day of Spring</i>	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SAN LUIS OBISPO SYMPHONY

Since 1961, the San Luis Obispo Symphony has been a thriving cultural presence on the Central Coast, presenting a nine-month season of exceptional concerts and reaching more than 16,000 children and adults every year with a variety of music education programs that provide performance, outreach and experience activities for all ages.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(805) 543-3533
 Patty Thayer, Communications Dir.
 PO Box 658 SLO, CA 93406
www.slosymphony.com

SLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
www.slocounty.ca.gov/dss | 805-781-1705



HEAVEN | 10 YEARS

Heaven enjoys being outdoors and exploring nature. She enthusiastically explores new activities and has a true sense of adventure. She loves to share her amazing smile. Horseback riding came easily to her. Heaven has a deep love for animals and dreams of becoming a veterinarian when she grows up.

HOW TO HELP

Heaven likes being with animals while enjoying the great outdoors. Could you provide her with opportunities to explore these interests?

THANKS TO

J and J Riding
Photographer Brittany App

APRIL 2012



NOTES _____

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Palm Sunday</i>					<i>Good Friday</i>	
					<i>Passover Begins</i>	
I	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Easter Sunday</i>						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			<i>Administrative Professionals Day</i>			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER (CCC)

For 40 years the mission of Community Counseling Center (CCC) has been to build and support emotionally strong families, individuals, and community through affordable, confidential counseling, education, and advocacy. CCC provides low-cost professional brief therapy for individuals who generally have no insurance. To maintain the value of the service, each client pays what they can afford and no one is turned away if they are unable to pay.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(805) 543-7969
James Statler, Executive Director
1129 Marsh Street, SLO, CA 93401
www.cccslo.com

SLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
www.slocounty.ca.gov/dss | 805-781-1705



LOREINA | 14 YEARS

Loreina is a bubbly teenager and quite the “social butterfly.” She loves spending time with friends and playing volleyball. With her interest in fashion and her sense of humor, she’s created a style all her own. After graduation, she aspires to attend cosmetology school and someday own a full-service day spa.

HOW TO HELP

Loreina is physically active and belongs to several sports teams. She plans to try out for her high school volleyball team and wants to improve her skills at volleyball. Could you help support her interest in volleyball and other team sports personally or financially?

THANKS TO

Bruno Martinelli
YMCA
Photographer Melissa Jean

MAY 2012



NOTES _____

NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Mother's Day</i>						<i>Armed Forces Day</i>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<i>Memorial Day</i>					
27	28	29	30	31		

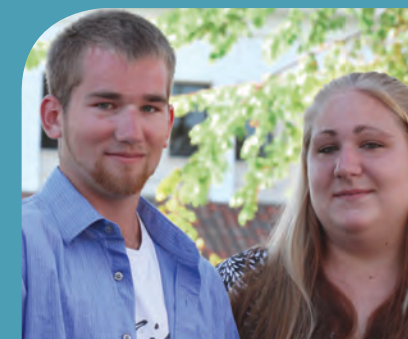
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The City of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing a variety of high quality programs for youth and adults. The Department's parks, open spaces, recreation, cultural, and educational programs and services promote personal well-being and a sense of community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(805) 781-7300
 1341 Nipomo Street, SLO, CA 93401
www.slocity.org/parksandrecreation

SLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
www.slocounty.ca.gov/dss | 805-781-1705



JESSE | 18 YEARS
LACEY | 20 YEARS

Jesse and Lacey have made great progress in the last two years, including attending Cuesta College and living in their own apartment. Jesse finished an internship at Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home and is going to school to become a mortician. Lacey is an intern at the Department of Social Services and is working to complete her early child care education.

HOW TO HELP

Jesse is hoping to find employment particularly in funeral home services. Lacey is finishing school to become a pre-school teacher. Do you have the connections to help these two move toward their career goals?

THANKS TO

Cuesta College
Photographer Bill Bradley

JUNE 2012



NOTES _____

REBUILD YOUR OWN LIFE MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	Flag Day	15	16
Father's Day			First Day of Summer			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

CUESTA COLLEGE FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION (FKCE) PROGRAM

FKCE serves San Luis Obispo by providing training for foster, adoptive, or prospective parents and by providing kinship or relative care.

The Cuesta College Foster and Kinship Care Education Program workshops are free and open to the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(805) 546-3156
 Mimi Feliciano-Hix,
 Director Cuesta College FKCE Program
Mfelicia@cuesta.edu

SLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
www.slocounty.ca.gov/dss | 805-781-1705



ANA | 14 YEARS

This self-confident and motivated young woman intends to become a Criminal Justice Attorney. She believes determination and drive will help her succeed with her goals. Along with working hard to achieve her dreams, she enjoys playing guitar and listening to music. Ana plays soccer and softball, and is involved in community service projects.

HOW TO HELP

Ana is focused on her goals and hopes to make a difference in the lives of youth when she becomes a Criminal Justice Attorney. She needs support while attending college. Could you provide mentoring or financial support for Ana's future aspirations?

THANKS TO

Judge Garrett
Theresa Klein
Photographer Rachel Owens

JULY 2012



NOTES _____

NATIONAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO CHILDREN MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Independence Day			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FOSTER CARE LIAISONS

The San Luis Obispo County Office of Education coordinates a Foster Youth Services program. This program is committed to guaranteeing that children and youth in the foster care system receive equal educational opportunities. Tutoring and mentoring services are available to youth in foster homes and group homes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(805) 782-7209
 John Elfers
 San Luis Obispo County Office
 of Education
 3350 Education Drive, SLO, CA 93420

SLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
www.slocounty.ca.gov/dss | 805-781-1705



CHANTAL | 16 YEARS

Chantal is a mature, outgoing and adventurous individual eager to learn more about photography. She has a basic understanding of the art and is passionate in pursuing it as a hobby. Her other hobbies include classic cars and cooking and she has a strong interest in becoming a military pilot.

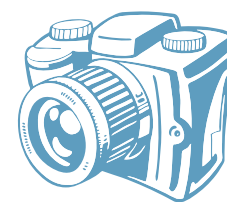
HOW TO HELP

Chantal plans to join the Marine Corps and wants to explore the possibility of a career in photography. Do you have resources to help Chantal develop her interest in photography? Could you provide her with an inside look at what it's like to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps?

THANKS TO

Rachel Owens

AUGUST 2012



NOTES _____

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

TRI-COUNTIES REGIONAL CENTER (TCRC)-EARLY START PROGRAMS

Early Start is a combination of services offered to children (0-3) and their families to meet the educational, developmental, health, and social needs necessary for early growth. Services are provided based on assessed need and delivered within the child's everyday routines, activities, and places. These services may include:

- Family training and counseling
- Home visits
- Speech therapy
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Behavioral services
- Psychological services

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(805) 543-2833

www.tri-counties.org

SLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
www.slocounty.ca.gov/dss | 805-781-1705



HAILEA | 16 YEARS

Hailea is a confident and kind young person who is interested in dancing and photography. She has a vibrant smile and is a determined student who won't let anything get in the way of her goals. Hailea's major goal is to attend college and study marine biology.

HOW TO HELP

Hailea has a broad range of interests and goals. She is interested in learning more about dance, scuba diving, photography and music. Do you have skills or talents you would like to share or would you like to support her in one of her interests?

THANKS TO

Sandra Woods
Class Act Dance Studio
Photographer Renoda Campbell

SEPTEMBER 2012



NOTES _____

NATIONAL SELF-IMPROVEMENT MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
	Labor Day					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Grandparents' Day						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						First Day of Autumn
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23						
30	24	25	26	27	28	29

WOMEN'S SHELTER PROGRAM OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY (WSP)

The WSP is committed to recognizing and responding to our community's need for comprehensive, multicultural domestic violence and child abuse services. WSP understands that domestic violence and child abuse, in their fullest scope, impact primary victims, family members, society, and future generations. With this in mind, WSP's goal is to stop the cycle of violence by providing crisis intervention, emergency shelter, advocacy, treatment, prevention and education.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(805) 781-6401
www.womensshelterslo.org
 Our 24-hour/7 day a week crisis line is (805) 781-6400

SLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
www.slocounty.ca.gov/dss | 805-781-1705



AUSTIN | 15 YEARS

Austin is a genuine, intelligent and attentive young man enthusiastic to learn about hair styling and makeup. He would like to attend a beauty college after high school and hopes to someday own his own salon. He works well alongside a mentor and appreciates support.

HOW TO HELP

Austin looks forward to being more independent and self-sufficient as he gets older. Do you have resources to help Austin continue his passion for cosmetology or could you help him learn more about this line of work?

THANKS TO

Jessica Winstead
Bluebird Salon
Photographer Renoda Campbell

OCTOBER 2012



NOTES _____

NATIONAL COSMETOLOGY MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<i>Columbus Day</i>					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			<i>Halloween</i>			
28	29	30	31			

FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION (SLOCFPA)

SLOCFPA is the local chapter of the California State Foster Parent Association (CSFPA), a tax-exempt non-profit organization (501(c)3). Comprised of current foster/adoptive parents, members join a network of new and experienced foster parents to pool their knowledge and resources. SLOCFPA supports Foster Parents in SLO County. Activities include: bi-monthly meetings, annual family BBQ, annual holiday party, dissemination of local state policy information and foster youth scholarships.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(805) 541-1287
Aleksandra Wyzdga,
SLOCFPA Membership Chair
www.slocfpa.org

SLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
www.slocounty.ca.gov/dss | 805-781-1705



CASSIE | 13 YEARS

Cassie is a determined young woman. She enjoys doing her own hair and make-up, and loves shopping with friends and family. She has been a soccer player for almost 5 years. The highlight of Cassie's school day is tutoring children with special needs and she takes pride in being able to help them with reading, math, and other learning.

HOW TO HELP

Cassie hopes to find volunteer opportunities to gain more knowledge about special needs. Do you have the ability or connections to help Cassie reach her goal?

THANKS TO

deGroots' Nursing Home for Children
Photographer Vanessa Plakias

NOVEMBER 2012



NOTES _____

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
<i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>		<i>Election Day</i>				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Veteran's Day</i>						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)

NAMI SLOCO is a charitable non-profit organization (501(c)3) of consumers, as well as families and friends of people with severe mental illnesses. Members provide emotional and educational support for each other and advocate for better understanding, treatment and care of people with mental illness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(805) 546-4040
P.O.Box 3158 SLO, CA 93403
www.namislo.org

SLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
www.slocounty.ca.gov/dss | 805-781-1705



CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION (CYC)

CYC is a youth-run advocacy organization made up of current and former foster youth who are dedicated to making positive change within the foster care system. CYC and supporters work together to make changes in the lives of other foster youth. CYC meets monthly on the 1st and 3rd Thursday at the Department of Social Services in San Luis Obispo.

HOW TO HELP

Are you a current/former foster youth interested in improving the foster care system? Are you a community member interested in supporting CYC? Join us at our next meeting! Call (805) 781-1815 or email cycslo@gmail.com or www.calyouthconn.org

THANKS TO

ILP
Photographer Kathy Stegman

DECEMBER 2012



NOTES _____

UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	First Day of Winter	22
23	24	Christmas Day				
30	New Year's Eve 31	25	26	27	28	29

PARENTS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (PFLAG)

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. PFLAG provides opportunity to dialogue about sexual orientation, gender identity and to promote healthy and respectful human diversity.

PFLAG meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the GALA Center located at: 1060 Palm Street San Luis Obispo from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(805) 801-2186
P.O. Box 3313 SLO, CA 93403
www.pflagcentralcoastchapter.net

SLO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
www.slocounty.ca.gov/dss | 805-781-1705

THE 2012 YOUTH CALENDAR TEAM WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK ALL THE PEOPLE WHO OFFERED SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PROJECT.

The first acknowledgment must be made to the San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services Administration for all of their support and encouragement:

Lee Collins, Director & **Tracy Buckingham**, Assistant Director

Thank you to Kat Lauterback and Suzanne Garcia, project managers of the 2012 Youth Calendar, and Gina McKernon-Cindrich, Jannine Lambert, Cherie Vallelunga, and the legal processing staff at DSS and superior court for all of their assistance and dedication to this project.

A special thanks to all the Social Workers, ILP staff and the CSAs for providing a crucial element, transportation for the youth.

And most of all, we would like to thank all the businesses and photographers for volunteering their time and resources for this project. We could not have done this without you.

J and J Riding | **BlueBird Salon** | **Robert's Restaurant** | **YMCA** | **Cuesta College** | **Koei-Kan Karate-Do** | **Class Act Dance Studio** | **Rachel Owens** | **de Groot's Home for Children** | **Theresa Klein** | **Judge Garrett** | **Clark Center** | **Vanessa Plakias**

Created and Developed by:

Blake Borgo, Student Intern; **Megan Harkins**, Student Intern; **Lacey Puckett**, Student Intern; **Kerry Burke**, Student Intern

Thank you for being a part of this Calendar too. Your time in reading the stories and getting to know the youth whose lives fill these pages is an important part of what this calendar is all about: Involvement. There are many ways to get involved. People often ask if there is a need for more foster and adoptive families. The answer is yes! In addition to our efforts to make qualitative placement matches (outgoing children placed with outgoing families and quiet children placed with quiet families), we have an ongoing, significant need for families able/willing to take children with special needs, school age/older youth and sibling groups larger than two into placement. Please give thought to your own ability to meet these very special needs. You may also know someone able to help. Consider taking the first step and give us a call to explore the possibility of helping with these needs.

-Gina McKernon-Cindrich, Recruitment Coordinator

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



designed by



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